

The facts are:

1 **ADDICTION**
is a disease.

2 **TREATMENT**
is available.

3 **RECOVERY**
is possible.

Substance use disorder, also known as addiction, impacts communities across Indiana. The stigma associated with addiction can prevent people from seeking treatment.

Stigma-Reducing Language

The words we use matter

✓ SAY THIS...	✗ NOT THAT...
Person with substance use disorder	Addict, user, druggie, junkie, abuser
Disease	Drug habit
Person living in recovery	Ex-addict
Person arrested for a drug violation	Drug offender
Substance dependent	Hooked
Medication is a treatment tool	Medication is a crutch
Had a setback	Relapsed
Maintained recovery; substance-free	Stayed clean
Negative drug screen	Clean
Positive drug screen	Dirty drug screen



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the facts.



Taking action
against the
stigma of
substance use
disorder **by**
listening and
learning.

The more we know, the more support we can give.

KNOW

Addiction to drugs is a disease that affects thousands of Hoosiers. Those who are struggling with substance use disorder are unable to control their use of illegal or legally prescribed drugs. The state of Indiana has been increasing access to services and treatment for those struggling.

Since 2017,
more than
71,000
HOOSIERS
have been served
by Opioid Treatment
Programs.

SUPPORT

By learning and changing how we think about addiction, we can be more supportive of our fellow Hoosiers. In addition to educating ourselves on addiction, treatment and recovery, we can also:



Offer support to friends and neighbors who are struggling.



Listen while withholding judgment.



Treat anyone suffering from substance use disorder with dignity and respect.



Avoid hurtful or stigmatizing language.

HOPE

Substance use disorder is a disease, but with treatment and support, there is hope for recovery. Be inspired and see stories of hope from Hoosiers who are living in recovery at [KnowTheFactsIndiana.org](https://www.knowthefactsindiana.org).

